

**Strategically Pursue God's Calling**

### Where are you in the strategic planning process?

To get an idea of how you can more effectively pursue your calling, take the following assessment. Circle the number that comes closest to representing how true the statement is for you right now. Use the following scale:

4: *Strongly Agree* • 3: *Agree* • 2: *Disagree* • 1: *Strongly Disagree*

#### Investigation

- 4 3 2 1 I ask God for help.
- 4 3 2 1 I'm thriving.
- 4 3 2 1 I understand how God has blessed me (God's work in my life • Relationships • Abilities • Character • Experiences) so I can pursue His calling.
- 4 3 2 1 I'm clear on what problems/opportunities God wants me to address.
- 4 3 2 1 God's blessings and the problems/opportunities God wants me to address are aligned.
- 4 3 2 1 I understand my God-given calling.
- 4 3 2 1 My mission statement is aligned with my calling in terms of God's blessings and the need/opportunities God wants me to address.
- 4 3 2 1 My mission statement is short, easy to say, and free of jargon.
- 4 3 2 1 I'm comfortable reciting my mission verbatim in casual conversation.
- 4 3 2 1 I'm focused on my God-given mission.

#### Goals

- 4 3 2 1 I have goals that define what it takes to carry out my God-given mission.
- 4 3 2 1 I have documented the goals.
- 4 3 2 1 I'm focused on achieving my goals (instead of completing activities).
- 4 3 2 1 I'm focused on the prize (achieving my goals), not the price.
- 4 3 2 1 I can readily explain how each of my daily activities contributes to achieving my goals and, consequently, my mission.

#### Reality

- 4 3 2 1 For each of my goals, I know the current level of progress.
- 4 3 2 1 I regularly measure progress on each of my goals.
- 4 3 2 1 For each of my goals, I know what "helps" (strengths, opportunities, resources) are available.
- 4 3 2 1 For each of my goals, I know the key "hindrances" (weaknesses, threats).
- 4 3 2 1 I'm comfortable saying "no" to requests that distract me from my goals.

#### Options

- 4 3 2 1 For each of my goals, I have a documented list of options for taking action.

#### Will dos

- 4 3 2 1 For each of my goals, I have 2 or more action steps to do within 1 year.
- 4 3 2 1 To complete each of my 1-year action steps, I take weekly action steps that are SMART.
- 4 3 2 1 I schedule my weekly action plans.
- 4 3 2 1 I have the support, encouragement, and accountability I need to complete my action steps.
- 4 3 2 1 I complete my weekly action steps.

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**How has God blessed you to pursue His calling?**

God blesses us with the GRACE we need to pursue His calling:

- God at work
- Relationships
- Abilities
- Character qualities
- Experiences

Identify God's blessings by completing the chart below:

<b>GRACE for calling</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<p><b><u>G</u>od at work</b></p> <p><i>How is God working in ___ life?</i></p>	
<p><b><u>R</u>elationships</b></p> <p><i>What relationships has God blessed ___ with?</i></p>	
<p><b><u>A</u>bilities</b></p> <p><i>What abilities has God blessed ___ with?</i></p>	
<p><b><u>C</u>haracter</b></p> <p><i>What character qualities has God blessed ___ with?</i></p>	
<p><b><u>E</u>xperience</b></p> <p><i>What experiences has God blessed ___ with?</i></p>	

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**What problems/opportunities are you passionate about & blessed by God to address?**

**Identify 5-15 problems/opportunities\* you're passionate and blessed by God to address. Use single words, phrases, or sentences. Next, write the names of 1 or more people who exemplify a given problem/opportunity.**

<b>Problem/Opportunity</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	
	13	
	14	
	15	

**\*Sample problems:** poverty, discouragement, racism, drugs, poor education, unemployment, underperformance, few Christians, Christians (especially youth) not growing/being discipled, church life not vibrant, lack of leaders, lack of innovation, lack of collaboration, people working without necessary tools and systems, lack of training, dysfunctional relationships

**\*Sample opportunities:** develop leaders, help youth develop a Christian worldview, focus staff energy, support and encourage others, build networks, increase staff effectiveness through consulting and training, model innovation, increase mission achievement through consulting and building systems

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### What's your mission?

Develop your mission statement. Start by identifying 5 or more verbs and then responding to 4 questions. Next, use your work to develop your mission statement (25 words or less, easy to say, free of jargon, addresses the problems and opportunities you identified).

Verbs	Key words and objectives
Advance Love Assist Make Bring Meet Build Minister Call Mobilize Care Motivate Celebrate Move Coach Multiply Collaborate Network Communicate Nurture Connect Obey Consult Offer Coordinate Organize Create Partner Cultivate Plant Design Pray Develop Preach Disciple Present Educate Preserve Empower Prevent Enable Proclaim Encourage Produce Enfold Provide Engage Publish Enhance Pursue Equip Raise Establish Reach Evangelize Reconcile Exalt Relieve Expand Reproduce Express Research Finance Respond Form See Gather Serve Give Share Glorify Solve Go Spread Heal Start Help Strengthen Implement Support Improve Teach Innovate Train Inspire Transform Know Unite Lead Worship	<p><b>(1) What will you say when asked, "What's your mission?"</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>(2) What word best describes your purpose?</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>(3) What 2-3 words describe your purpose?</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>(4) What 1 sentence do you want said about you at your funeral?</b></p>

**My mission:**

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**What's it take to carry out your God-given mission?**

You've developed your mission statement. Good. Now it's time to identify what it takes to carry out your mission. Review the list of sample areas. Next, identify areas (5-10 for individuals • 3-7 for organizations) you need to be involved in to carry out your mission and, consequently, to address the opportunities and problems you identified. Finally, write a goal for each area.

Sample areas	Area	Goal
<b>General areas:</b> Environment Finances Health/fitness Leadership Life balance Personal growth Recreation Relationships Spiritual/church Work  <b>Specific areas:</b> Administration Age-group ministry Board Camping Church planting Coaching Communications Community development Consulting Counseling Curriculum Discipling Education Evangelism Facilities Finance Fine arts Fundraising Leadership development Member care Mentoring Music Networking Pastoral care Personnel Program development Public relations Publishing Research and development Resource management Sports Strategic planning Technology Training Worship	1:	
	2:	
	3:	
	4:	
	5:	
	6:	
	7:	
	8:	
	9:	
	10:	

**Sample area/goal:** *Coaching:* Provide the support, encouragement, and accountability Christian leaders need to pursue God's calling



